

claims to be democratic. This does not resemble any kind of democracy I know about.

Mr. Speaker, we must take a stand for freedom in South Asia, as we are doing elsewhere in the world. The time has come to cut off our aid and trade with India and until basic human rights for all people are respected there. In addition, we should put the Congress officially on record in support of free and fair plebiscites in Punjab, Khalistan, in Kashmir, in Nagaland, and all the other minority nations seeking their freedom from India. It is time for America to show its active support for freedom, stability, dignity, and human rights.

Mr. Speaker, the Council of Khalistan has published a very good release on the statement by Dal Khalsa and the Shiromani Khalsa Dal. I would like to add it to the RECORD now for the information of my colleagues.

SIKHS ARRESTED IN INDIA FOR SPEAKING FOR KHALISTAN

WASHINGTON, DC, MARCH 15, 2006.—Sardar Kanwarpal Singh Dhami, Chairman of Dal Khalsa, and Dr. Jagjit Singh Chohan were arrested earlier this month for speaking out for an independent Khalistan. They were charged with sedition. These arrests follow the arrests of Sikh leaders last year belonging to Dal Khalsa both in January and June for hoisting the flag of Khalistan. Kanwarpal Singh Dhami was arrested after saying that the Sikh Panth could not live under someone else's rule. He was accused of "... sedition, promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony, imputations, assertions prejudicial to national integration and statements conducing to public mischief." The government charged that he promoted separatist and 'terrorist' movements.

Dal Khalsa has sponsored numerous marches and conferences in Punjab in support of a free Khalistan, the Sikh homeland that declared its independence from India on October 7, 1987. It was the organizer of the two events at which Sikhs were arrested for making speeches and raising the Khalistani flag. It was announced today that they will be joining forces with the Shiromani Khalsa Dal, headed by Sardar Daljit Singh Bittu, in support of a free Khalistan. The Punjab and Haryana High Court ruled that it is legal to ask for freedom for Khalistan, yet the Indian government continues to treat it as a crime. They do not even live by their own law.

Dr. Chohan said on India's Zee TV that Khalistan will be free by 2007. He has also been flying the Khalistani flag and that of his party, the Khalsa Raj Party, outside his office. According to the book Chakravatyuh: Web of Indian Secularism (page 183), Dr. Chohan worked with Major General Jaswant Singh Bhullar, Professor Manjit Singh Sidhu, Didar Singh Bains, and others "to stop Sikhs living abroad" from supporting freedom for Khalistan and connived with the Indian government for the June 1984 attack on the Golden Temple.

"It is evident that the Indian government is scared of the increasing amount of peaceful activism in Punjab in support of Khalistan," said Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, which is leading the Sikh struggle for independence. "The time of Khalistan's liberation is near. India will fall apart soon," he said. "We condemn the arrests of Sardar Dhami and Dr. Chohan but remind the Sikh Nation that it must work only with leaders who are honest, sincere, and committed to the liberation of Khalistan." Dr. Aulakh noted that in New York in 2000, former Member of Parliament Simranjit Singh Mann had called for the Council of Khalistan's office to be closed.

"Sikhs must be very careful about the leaders they follow," Dr. Aulakh said. "This office has worked unwaveringly for a sovereign Khalistan for almost 20 years," he noted.

History shows that multinational states such as India are doomed to failure. Countries like Austria-Hungary, India's longtime friend the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, and others prove this point. India is not one country; it is a polyglot like those countries, thrown together for the convenience of the British colonialists. It is doomed to break up as they did. "We only hope that the breakup will be peaceful," said Dr. Aulakh.

The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, more than 300,000 Christians in Nagaland, over 90,000 Muslims in Kashmir, tens of thousands of Christians and Muslims throughout the country, and tens of thousands of Tamils, Assamese, Manipuris, and others. The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian government's murders of Sikhs "worse than a genocide."

Indian police arrested human-rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalsa after he exposed their policy of mass cremation of Sikhs, in which over 50,000 Sikhs have been arrested, tortured, and murdered, then their bodies were declared unidentified and secretly cremated. He was murdered in police custody. His body was not given to his family. The police never released the body of former Jathedar of the Akal Takht Gurdev Singh Kaunke after SSP Swaran Singh Ghotna murdered him. No one has been brought to justice for the Khalra kidnapping and murder. Yet according to a report by the Movement Against State Repression (MASR), 52,268 Sikhs are being held as political prisoners in India without charge or trial, some since 1984!

Only in a free Khalistan will the Sikh Nation prosper and get justice," said Dr. Aulakh. "India should act like a democracy and allow a plebiscite on independence for Khalistan and all the nations of South Asia," Dr. Aulakh said. "We must free Khalistan now."

TRIBUTE TO WALTER JEBE

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Walter G. Jebe, a longtime community leader, businessman and historian, who died of leukemia in the Veterans Hospital in Palo Alto on Feb. 25th at the age of 81. The unofficial mayor of San Francisco's Excelsior district, Mr. Jebe was a champion of small business and for his neighborhood and an outspoken advocate and historian. He has left an indelible mark on our city.

Mr. Jebe was born in 1924, raised in the Excelsior District, graduated from Balboa High School, studied photography at Samuel Gompers trade school and was drafted into the Army. After serving our Nation, Mr. Jebe returned to San Francisco and opened Jebe's Cameras on Mission Street. He was a self-taught businessman, and neighboring businesses took bets on how long he would last. He stayed in business for 45 years.

All politics was local to Mr. Jebe, who was a member of the Excelsior Business Association, the Geneva Excelsior Lions Club, the Boy Scouts, and other organizations he felt would improve the Excelsior. He also served on a

number of San Francisco city commissions, including the Delinquency Prevention Commission, the Library Commission and the Arts Commission. He helped secure a branch of the public library for the Excelsior, and last year wrote a book about the history of the neighborhood.

Walter Jebe was a respected authority on San Francisco history and taught courses throughout San Francisco. He collected vast quantities of photos and memorabilia on the San Francisco Mid Winter Fair of 1894, the Pan Pacific Exhibition of 1915, the 1939 World's Fair and the 1906 Earthquake and Fire.

As a prominent member of the San Francisco History Association, he headed the task force that negotiated a deal for the Federal Government to turn over the Old Mint at Fifth and Mission streets to a nonprofit organization to become a history museum. The Old Mint is a San Francisco architectural gem that survived the 1906 Earthquake and Fire and played a vital role in rebuilding the city. A member of the Old Mint Advisory Council, Mr. Jebe was responsible for overseeing the restoration project.

With great appreciation for his fine work and service to our city, I extend my deepest sympathy to his wife of 53 years, Vivian Jebe, his son Walter and daughter Vivian, and thank them, for sharing their magnificent husband and father with us. He was a true San Francisco treasure and we are diminished by his passing.

PREPARE NOW DON'T WAIT FOR A HURRICANE STRIKE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call upon the United States Government to assist the islands of the Caribbean with preparation for the impending 2006 hurricane season and to enter in the RECORD an editorial from the New York CaribNews entitled "Prepare Now Don't Wait for a Hurricane Strike" which addresses the need to take timely action now before a natural disaster occurs.

The impact and wreckage still linger in Grenada from 2004 and 2005. In the aftermath of Hurricanes Ivan and Emily we realized that decades of progress was wiped away and insurmountable damage was done to 90 per cent of the country's housing stock and watersheds. Similar devastation exists throughout the islands of the Caribbean who received direct force of the 2004 and 2005 hurricanes. It is crucial that steps be taken to prepare for these tragedies long before they occur. We must have programs in place to respond immediately and not wait until the disaster strikes.

WITH 2006 HURRICANE SEASON AROUND THE CORNER, A LOUD CARIBBEAN APPEAL: PREPARE NOW DON'T WAIT FOR A HURRICANE STRIKE

MARCH 21, 2006.—Among Caribbean leaders, Dr. Keith Mitchell, Grenada's Prime Minister, is undoubtedly the best person, not only to talk about the importance of preparing a country's response system before a natural disaster occurs. He is also well qualified to be the region's spokesman on rebuilding a nation after devastation caused by a hurricane.

That's because of the wreckage Hurricanes Ivan and Emily left behind in 2004 and last year in Grenada. In a matter of hours Ivan wiped out decades of progress in the Eastern Caribbean state, destroyed the productive base of the economy, took at least a dozen lives and damaged 90 per cent of the country's housing stock, forested areas, watershed and mangroves. In less than a year Emily came along and unfortunately piled on damage on top of damage and put a halt to much of the rebuilding effort after Ivan.

That put Dr. Mitchell and his people in the unenviable position of starting from scratch to rebuild a beautiful country.

Small wonder, then, that when the United Nations was about to launch its international Central Emergency Response Fund last week in New York, the Grenada leader was invited to join UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, at the head table to speak to delegates from around the world about the value of being well prepared in case of a natural disaster and the need for an effective response by the international community to appeals for help.

A key task was to appeal for financial and technical assistance for victims of natural disasters.

Speaking on behalf of Caricom and addressing the high level meeting as a "survivor of an unprecedented catastrophe" the Prime Minister presented a sensible case for small states. "The Caribbean is among the regions in the world most vulnerable to natural disasters," he said. "The survival of our economies is dependent on the frequency and magnitude of these events."

Afterwards, he told us at Carib News that he was worried and nervous about the upcoming hurricane season, which begins in June. His concern for the Caribbean region as a whole, not simply Grenada, wasn't misplaced.

After all, Ivan left a trail of devastation in Jamaica, Haiti, St. Vincent and other islands. The loss of life in Haiti was mind-boggling and tragic. Other hurricanes also affected the Bahamas and the U.S. Last year, Katrina took its lethal high winds and heavy rains to the Gulf Coast of the United States, especially New Orleans and the pitiful sight of tens of thousands of homeless persons, at least 1,000 killed and the Big Easy brought to its knees wouldn't be erased from the memory banks of Americans for decades to come. Add the inept response of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, FEMA, and the Bush White House to the nightmare and it would become clear why rich and poor countries alike should be petrified about the 2006 hurricane season.

But hurricanes aren't the only cause for despair. Monstrous floods hit Guyana in late 2004 from which it hasn't fully recovered. Some estimates by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, ECLAC, put the damage in Guyana to approximately 60 percent of its gross domestic product. The floods affected almost two-thirds of the 800,000 plus persons who live there.

Clearly, nations and territories in the region should have learned some important lessons from these tragedies. The first was that they should be prepared for the tragedy long before it occurs. Next, they must have programs in place to respond immediately after the all clear has been given. That was why it was so distressing to hear both Dr. Mitchell and Jeremy Collymore, Coordinator of the Caribbean Emergency Response Agency, CREDERA, express regret that some countries seem to be waiting until the next calamity strikes in order to wake up. That would add to the suffering.

In his speech to the diplomats and other representatives in New York, Dr. Mitchell

expressed the Caribbean's disappointment at the "poor response" to the region's appeals for assistance in the wake of the natural disasters.

"In both cases only a small percentage of the pledges were fulfilled," he said. That's an international scandal, a crying shame. Here were countries and institutions making pledges, lifting people's hopes but failing to live up to their word in times of need and suffering.

SIKH ACTIVISTS ARRESTED IN PUNJAB

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, Sikh activists Kanwarpal Singh Dhami and Dr. Jagjit Singh Chohan were recently arrested by the Indian Government on charges of sedition. Their crime was to speak in support of a sovereign Khalistan. Dr. Chohan also flies the Khalistani flag from his residence. When did free speech become a crime in a democracy?

The Sikh homeland of Khalistan declared itself independent from India on October 7, 1987.

These arrests are a follow-up to the arrests of groups of Sikh activists last year on Republic Day in January and again in June on the anniversary of the Golden Temple for making speeches in support of freedom for Khalistan and raising the flag of Khalistan. These events were led by Dal Khalsa. Recently, Dal Khalsa was put under watch by order of the Chief Minister of Punjab after its leader, Satnam Singh, and the leader of the Shiromani Khalsa Dal, Daljit Singh Bittu, announced that they are joining forces to achieve sovereignty for Khalistan.

Mr. Speaker, these are the kinds of tactics that totalitarian governments use, not democratic ones. A real democracy would not arrest people for making speeches. This is underlined by the fact that, according to the Movement Against State Repression, India admitted to holding 52,268 Sikh political prisoners. Tens of thousands of other minorities are also held as political prisoners, according to Amnesty International. How can such things happen in the world's largest democracy?

The time has come to stand up against India's tyranny. We should end our aid to India, especially since India uses 25 percent of its development budget for nuclear development, and we should stop our trade until all people enjoy basic human rights. And we should declare our support for free and fair plebiscites in Kashmir, as India promised in 1948, in Punjab, Khalistan, in Nagaland, and wherever people are seeking freedom. The essence of democracy is the right of self-determination and that basic right is being denied to minorities in India. The best thing we can do to support stability, freedom, and human dignity in the subcontinent is to stop rewarding the tyrants and throw our full support behind those seeking freedom.

Mr. Speaker, the Council of Khalistan has issued a very good release on the arrests of Dr. Chohan and Mr. Dhami. I would like to insert it in the RECORD at this time. Thank you.

DESIRE FOR KHALISTAN ALIVE AND WELL IN PUNJAB

WASHINGTON, D.C., MAR. 21, 2006.—Slogans of "Khalistan Zindabad" filled the air at the

Holla Mohallah festival in Anandpur Sahib, Punjab, led by Dal Khalsa and the Shiromani Khalsa Dal. The two organizations pledged to unite to liberate the Sikh homeland, Khalistan, which declared itself independent from India on October 7, 1987.

Dal Khalsa, led by Satnam Singh, president of Dal Khalsa, and Daljit Singh Bittu, pledged to "provide a fresh platform for the Sikhs who were depressed with the incompetent and incapable leadership of various factions of the Akali Dal," according to The Telegraph, an Indian newspaper. Satnam Singh said the organizations would reach out to people to involve them in "the struggle to uphold our honor and dignity," the newspaper reported. The Punjab government led by Chief Minister Amarinder Singh has directed the police that both groups be put under watch.

Dal Khalsa has sponsored numerous marches in Punjab in support of a free Khalistan, the Sikh homeland that declared its independence from India on October 7, 1987. It was the organizer of the two events at which Sikhs were arrested for making speeches and raising the Khalistani flag.

History shows that multinational states such as India are doomed to failure. Countries like Austria-Hungary, India's longtime friend the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, and others prove this point. India is not one country; it is a polyglot like those countries. It is doomed to break up as they did.

"The uniting of these two organizations is very good for the Sikh nation and its aspirations," said Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan. "The Indian government continues to persecute and kill our Sikh brethren," he said. "Unity is essential for the liberation of Khalistan," he said. "As Professor Darshan Singh, a former Jathedar, said, 'If a Sikh is not for Khalistan, he is not a Sikh.'" Dr. Aulakh noted: "This shows that the drive for freedom is still alive in Punjab," he said. "What kind of democracy watches people for demanding freedom? Why don't they watch the Black Cats who have killed thousands of Sikhs with the protection of the Indian government?" he asked.

The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, more than 300,000 Christians since 1948 as well as tens of thousands of Christians throughout the country, over 90,000 Muslims in Kashmir since 1988, 2,000 to 5,000 Muslims in Gujarat, tens of thousands of Muslims elsewhere in India, and tens of thousands of Assamese, Bodos, Dalits, Manipuris, Tamils, and others. An Indian newspaper reported that the police in Gujarat were ordered to stand aside in that massacre and not to get involved, a frightening parallel to the Delhi massacre of Sikhs in 1984. The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian government's murders of Sikhs "worse than a genocide."

Indian police arrested human-rights activist Jaswant Singh Khaira after he exposed their policy of mass cremation of Sikhs, in which over 50,000 Sikhs have been arrested, tortured, and murdered, then their bodies were declared unidentified and secretly cremated. He was murdered in police custody. His body was not given to his family. The police never released the body of former Jathedar of the Akal Takht Gurdev Singh Kaunke after SSP Swaran Singh Ghotna murdered him. No one has been brought to justice for the Khaira kidnapping and murder or for the murder of Jathedar Kaunke. Yet according to a report by the Movement